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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 30 1. A method for configuring a server in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
- receiving a request for a function, wherein the request comprises an input specifying a first server name and an input specifying a second server name, wherein the server responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first
- 35 server name; and
- executing the function on the server as directed by the input specifying the first server name, wherein the function dynamically modifies a membership of the second server name in the set of server names.
- 40 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the membership of the second server name in the set of server names is dynamically added to the set of server names by registering the second server name for the server.
- 45 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the membership of the second server name in the set of server names is dynamically removed from the set of server names by deregistering the second server name for the server.
- 50 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the function dynamically modifies the set of server names without halting or restarting the server.
- 55 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the request for the function is received from a network.
- 60 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the set of server names comprises a plurality of server names.
7. A method for configuring a server in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
- receiving a first server name and a second server name, wherein the server

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2 responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first server name; and
 dynamically modifying a membership of the second server name in the set of server names.

10 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the set of server names is dynamically modified without halting or restarting the server.

15 ¹~~9.~~ A method for reconfiguring servers in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
 dynamically modifying a first set of server names for a first server by adding a first server name to the first set of server names, wherein the first server responds to requests directed to the first set of server names;
 dynamically modifying a second set of server names for a second server by
 20 adding a second server name to the second set of server names, wherein the second server responds to requests directed to the second set of server names;
 determining that the first server requires reconfiguration; and
 dynamically modifying the first set of server names by adding the second server name to the first set of server names.

25 ²~~10.~~ The method of claim ¹~~9~~ wherein the first server is reconfigured in response to a determination that the second server requires fail-over support by the first server.

30 ³~~11.~~ A method for reconfiguring servers in a distributed data processing system, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
 dynamically modifying a first set of server names for a first server by adding a first server name to the first set of server names, wherein the first server responds to requests directed to the first set of server names;
 35 dynamically modifying the first set of server names by adding a second server name to the first set of server names;
 determining that the first server requires reconfiguration;
 dynamically modifying the first set of server names by removing the second server name from the first set of server names; and
 40 dynamically modifying a second set of server names for a second server by adding the second server name to the second set of server names, wherein the second server responds to requests directed to the second set of server names.

⁴~~12.~~ The method of claim ³~~11~~ wherein the second server name is removed prior to

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connecting the second server to a network in the distributed data processing system.

13. ~~A data processing system comprising:~~
- 5 means for receiving a request for a function, wherein the request comprises an input specifying a first server name and an input specifying a second server name, wherein a server responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first server name; and
- 10 means for executing the function on the server as directed by the input specifying the first server name, wherein the function dynamically modifies a membership of the second server name in the set of server names.
14. The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the membership of the second server name in the set of server names is dynamically added to the set of server names by registering the second server name for the server.
15. The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the membership of the second server name in the set of server names is dynamically removed from the set of server names by deregistering the second server name for the server.
16. The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the function dynamically modifies the set of server names without halting or restarting the server.
17. The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the request for the function is received from a network.
18. The data processing system of claim 13 wherein the set of server names comprises a plurality of server names.
19. A data processing system comprising:
- 35 means for receiving a first server name and a second server name, wherein a server responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first server name; and
- 40 means for dynamically modifying a membership of the second server name in the set of server names.
20. The data processing system of claim 19 wherein the set of server names is.

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dynamically modified without halting or restarting the server.

- 5 21. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for configuring a server in a distributed data processing system, the computer program product comprising:
- 10 first instructions for receiving a first server name and a second server name, wherein a server responds to requests directed to a set of server names comprising the first server name; and
- second instructions for dynamically modifying a membership of the second server name in the set of server names.
- 15 22. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the set of server names is dynamically modified without halting or restarting the server.

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